From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

To:

Commissioner
US Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark
Office, PCT
2011 South Clark Place Room
CP2/5C24
Arlington, VA 22202
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 03 January 2001 (03.01.01)	
International application No. PCT/EP00/03888	**Applicant's or agent's file reference** 701.864
International filing date (day/month/year) 28 April 2000 (28.04.00)	**Priority date** (day/month/year) 05 May 1999 (05.05.99)
Applicant DAL CEREDO, Giuliano	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

[X] in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

28 November 2000 (28.11.00)

[ ] in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election [X] was

[ ] was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO **34, chemin des Colombettes** **1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland**	Authorized officer S. Mafla
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 : B26F 1/04, 1/14

A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/67966

(43) International Publication Date: 16 November 2000 (16.11.00)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP00/03888

(22) International Filing Date: 28 April 2000 (28.04.00)

(30) Priority Data:
VE99A000017 5 May 1999 (05.05.99) IT

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: GER ELETTRONICA S.R.L. [IT/IT]; Via dell'Artigianato, 26, I–36075 Montecchio Maggiore (IT).

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(75) Inventor/Applicant *(for US only)*: DAL CEREDO, Giuliano [IT/IT]; Via dell'Artigianato, 26, I–36075 Montecchio Maggiore (IT).

(74) Agent: PIOVESANA, Paolo; Corso del Popolo, 70, I–30172 Venezia Mestre (IT).

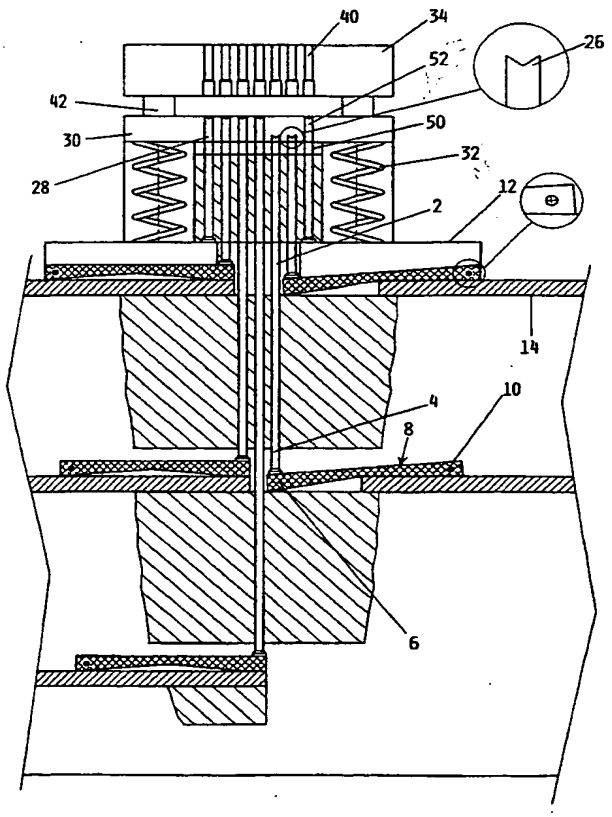
(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published
With international search report.

(54) Title: MACHINE FOR MARKING SKINS OR OTHER ARTICLES IN SHEET FORM BY PERFORATION

(57) Abstract

A support structure (12) for m rows each formed from n vertical punches (2), m and n being whole numbers with m ≥1 and n ≥2, the upper ends of said punches being inserted into the holes (28) of a corresponding plate (30) elastically supported on the support structure (12), the lower ends of the punches of each row interacting with a corresponding wedge element (8) operable by the axial movement of a bar (14) to position said punches between two end positions, in one of which the cutting edge of punches is substantially at the level of the upper surface of the plate (30) and in the other of which the cutting edge of the punches lies inside the hole, the distance between the two end positions of the cutting edges corresponding with the thickness of the operating bars (14) for the wedges (8).



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int[illegible]al Application No
PCT/EP 00/03888

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B26F1/04 B26F1/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B26F B21D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, IBM-TDB, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	DE 94 19 403 U (FELSNER FRANZ) 9 February 1995 (1995-02-09)	1-3,6,9
A	page 8, paragraph 5 -page 10, paragraph 3; figures 5-11	10,11
Y	US 3 015 884 A (CHAMBERLAIN) 9 January 1962 (1962-01-09) column 2, line 48 -column 3, line 16; figures	1-3,6,9
A	DE 38 17 824 A (RONNIGER HANS EBERHARD) 30 November 1989 (1989-11-30) column 5, line 33 -column 6, line 28; figures 5,6	3
A	US 2 576 328 A (ALLISON) 27 November 1951 (1951-11-27) figure 3	3

-/--

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
23 August 2000	30/08/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016	Vaglienti, G

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication,where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2 911 045 A (WRIGHT) 3 November 1959 (1959-11-03) column 8, line 30 - line 55; figures 1,2,4	3,4
A	GB 859 526 A (REICHERT) page 3, line 40 - line 70; figures 3,4	5
A	GB 1 222 961 A (ASSOCIATED PERFORATORS AND WEAVERS LTD) 17 February 1971 (1971-02-17) page 2, line 85 -page 3, line 5; figures	7,10
A	EP 0 763 408 A (GEN BINDING CORP) 19 March 1997 (1997-03-19) column 2, line 55 -column 3, line 4	8
A	US 3 818 789 A (VARGO W) 25 June 1974 (1974-06-25) column 3, line 10 column 5, line 8 - line 20 column 6, line 50 -column 7, line 10	12,13
A	FR 2 527 500 A (BIELOMATIK LEUZE & CO) 2 December 1983 (1983-12-02) page 4, line 7 - line 20; figure 1	13
A	US 4 823 661 A (FRERES DONALD E) 25 April 1989 (1989-04-25) column 3, line 1 - line 4	13
A	GB 928 428 A (CUMMINS-CHICAGO)	
A	FR 2 311 635 A (BOUDEVILLE MARC) 17 December 1976 (1976-12-17)	
A	EP 0 508 557 A (USHIO KK) 14 October 1992 (1992-10-14)	
A	US 4 596 359 A (NORDLI PER-OLE) 24 June 1986 (1986-06-24)	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/EP 00/03888

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 9419403 U	09-02-1995	AT 405145 B	25-05-1999
		AT 256493 A	15-10-1998
		AT 172137 T	15-10-1998
		DE 59407088 D	19-11-1998
		EP 0658383 A	21-06-1995
		ES 1030822 U	16-10-1995
		FI 945846 A	18-06-1995
		FR 2713966 A	23-06-1995
		HU 741 U	28-02-1996
		IT MI940832 U	19-06-1995
		PL 306293 A	26-06-1995
US 3015884 A	09-01-1962	NONE	
DE 3817824 A	30-11-1989	NONE	
US 2576328 A	27-11-1951	NONE	
US 2911045 A	03-11-1959	NONE	
GB 859526 A		NONE	
GB 1222961 A	17-02-1971	GB 1223862 A	03-03-1971
EP 0763408 A	19-03-1997	NONE	
US 3818789 A	25-06-1974	NONE	
FR 2527500 A	02-12-1983	DE 3220461 A	01-12-1983
		GB 2121344 A,B	21-12-1983
		US 4509396 A	09-04-1985
US 4823661 A	25-04-1989	NONE	
GB 928428 A		NONE	
FR 2311635 A	17-12-1976	NONE	
EP 0508557 A	14-10-1992	JP 2124295 A	11-05-1990
		EP 0366064 A	02-05-1990
		US 5144872 A	08-09-1992
US 4596359 A	24-06-1986	NO 842216 A	02-12-1985

REPLACED BY ART 34 AMDT

- laborious bar substitution when changing the number to be coded,
- poor skin consistency around the hole because of stretching due to the conical profile of the punch.

Marking devices are also known with a punch movable along a line or in two perpendicular directions under the control of a computer.

These devices, which enable the coded number to be easily changed by simply operating the computer keyboard, have the drawback of being slow in operation because the holes have to be made one at a time.

An object of the invention is to obviate these drawbacks by providing a machine for marking skins by perforation in which the coded number to be marked can be quickly and easily changed, and which is very fast in operation.

This object and further ones are attained according to the invention through a machine as described in claim 1.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is described in detail hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, on which:

Figure 1 is a schematic front view of a marking machine according to the invention,

Figure 2 is a side view thereof,

Figure 3 is an enlarged view of the detail enclosed by the dashed line of Figure 1,

Figure 4 shows the head with the counterplate in the lowered position,

Figure 5 shows the head from above,

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the punch operating device,

Figure 7 shows the machine applied to a conveyor belt, and

Figure 8 is an enlarged detail of Figure 7.

CLAIMS

1. A machine for marking skins or other articles in sheet form by perforation, characterised by comprising:

- a support structure (12) for m rows each formed from n vertical punches (2), m and n being whole numbers with $m \geq 1$ and $n \geq 2$, the upper ends of said punches being inserted into the holes (28) of a corresponding plate (30) elastically supported on the support structure (12), the lower ends of the punches of each row interacting with a corresponding wedge element (8) operable by the axial movement of a bar (14) to position said punches between two end positions, in one of which the cutting edge of punches is substantially at the level of the upper surface of the plate (30) and in the other of which the cutting edge of the punches lies inside the hole, the distance between the two end positions of the cutting edges corresponding with the thickness of the operating bars (14) for the wedges (8),
- moving means (18, 20) for said bars,
- a counterplate (34) facing the plate and movable vertically towards and away from said plate (30) to cause this latter to descend together with the skin retained between them and obtain perforation by only those punches which have their cutting end at the level of the upper surface of the plate and which have been positioned in an arrangement corresponding to an alphanumeric character in accordance with a predetermined code.

2. A machine as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the wedges (8) which operate the punches (2) of each row are positioned in a single horizontal plane and are mutually adjacent.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

Piovesana, Paolo
Corso del Popolo, 70
I-30172 Venezia Mestre
ITALIE

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing *(day/month/year)*	26.07.2001
Applicant's or agent's file reference: 701.864	**IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION**
International application No.: PCT/EP00/03888	International filing date *(day/month/year)*: 28/04/2000
Priority date *(day/month/year)*: 05/05/1999	
Applicant: GER ELETTRONICA S.R.L. et al.	

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.

2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.

3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Marra, E Tel.+49 89 2399-7235

Form PCT/IPEA/416 (July 1992)

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
701.864		
International application No.	International filing date *(day/month/year)*	Priority date *(day/month/year)*
PCT/EP00/03888	28/04/2000	05/05/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC		
B26F1/04		
Applicant		
GER ELETTRONICA S.R.L. et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

   ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

   These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

   - I ☒ Basis of the report
   - II ☐ Priority
   - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
   - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
   - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations suporting such statement
   - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
   - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
   - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
28/11/2000	26.07.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:	Authorized officer
European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax +49 89 2399 - 4465	Zeckau, A Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2358

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (January 1994)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/EP00/03888

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application *(Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17))*:
Description, pages:

1,3-7	as originally filed			
2	as received on	23/06/2001	with letter of	14/06/2001

Claims, No.:

3-13	as originally filed			
1,2	as received on	23/06/2001	with letter of	14/06/2001

Drawings, sheets:

1/4-4/4	as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

   These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

   - ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
   - ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
   - ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

   - ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
   - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
   - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
   - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
   - ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
   - ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages:

☐ the claims, Nos.:

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

Ad V.: As to claim 1, the document DE-U-94 19 403 discloses a machine for marking skins or other articles in sheet form by perforation, said machine comprising:
a support structure for m rows each formed from n vertical punches, m and n being whole numbers with m>=1 and n>=2,
moving means for said bars,
a counterplate facing the plate and the machine being such that perforation is obtained by only those punches which have their cutting end at the level of said first surface of the plate.

The machine according to claim 1 differs from the known machine in that

a) the upper ends of the punches are inserted into the holes of a corresponding plate elastically supported on the support structure, each lower end of the punches of each row interacting with a corresponding wedge element of a plurality of n x m wedge elements, each wedge element being operable by the axial movement of a corresponding bar to position said punches between two end positions in which the punches remain fixed, in one of which the cutting edge of punches is substantially at the level of the upper surface of the plate and in the other of which the cutting edge of the punches lies inside the hole, the distance between the two end positions of the cutting edges corresponding with the thickness of the operating bars for the wedges,

b) the counterplate is vertically movable towards and away from said plate to cause this latter to descend together with the workpiece retained between them towards the punches, and

c) the punches have been positioned in an arrangement corresponding to an alphanumeric character in accordance with a predetermined code.

Feature a), which is not known from, nor rendered obvious by, the prior art, solves the problem of providing a punching machine whose punching pattern can easily be changed. Hence, the machine according to claim 1 involves an inventive step.

Dependent claims 2-13 are concerned with preferred embodiments of the invention.

- laborious bar substitution when changing the number to be coded,
- poor skin consistency around the hole because of stretching due to the conical profile of the punch.

Marking devices are also known with a punch movable along a line or in two perpendicular directions under the control of a computer.

These devices, which enable the coded number to be easily changed by simply operating the computer keyboard, have the drawback of being slow in operation because the holes have to be made one at a time.

An object of the invention is to ~~obviate these drawbacks by providing~~ provide a machine for marking skins by perforation in which the coded number to be marked can be quickly and easily changed, and which is very fast in operation.

This object and further ones are attained according to the invention through a machine as described in claim 1.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is described in detail hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, on which:

Figure 1 is a schematic front view of a marking machine according to th invention,

Figure 2 is a side view thereof,

Figure 3 is an enlarged view of the detail enclosed by the dashed line of Figure 1,

Figure 4 shows the head with the counterplate in the lowered position,

Figure 5 shows the head from above,

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the punch operating device,

Figure 7 shows the machine applied to a conveyor belt, and

Figure 8 is an enlarged detail of Figure 7.

DE-U-9419403 relates to an arrang ment for forming strip-shaped material with t least one adjustable tool-carrying module which can be actuated by means of a drive. Two modules are provided, each carrying at least two independently usable tools and/or at least one processing unit, which modules can be adjusted in the longitudinal and/or transverse direction relative to the feed direction of the material to be processed.

PROCESSED

CLAIMS

1. A machine for marking skins or other articles in sheet form by perforation, characterised by comprising:

- a support structure (12) for m rows each formed from n vertical punches (2), m and n being whole numbers with $m \geq 1$ and $n \geq 2$, the upper ends of said punches being inserted into the holes (28) of a corresponding plate (30) elastically supported on the support structure (12), the lower ends of the punches of each row interacting with a corresponding wedge element (8) operable by the axial movement of a bar (14) to position said punches between two end positions, in one of which the cutting edge of punches is substantially at the level of the upper surface of the plate (30) and in the other of which the cutting edge of the punches lies inside the hole, the distance between the two end positions of the cutting edges corresponding with the thickness of the operating bars (14) for the wedges (8),
- moving means (18, 20) for said bars,
- a counterplate (34) facing the plate and movable vertically towards and away from said plate (30) to cause this latter to descend together with the skin retained between them and obtain perforation by only those punches which have their cutting end at the level of the upper surface of the plate and which have been positioned in an arrangement corresponding to an alphanumeric character in accordance with a predetermined code.

2. A machine as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the wedges (8) which operate the punches (2) of each row are positioned in a single horizontal plane and are mutually adjacent.

AMENDED SHEET

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

Piovesana, Paolo
Corso del Popolo, 70
I-30172 Venezia Mestre
ITALIE

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing *(day/month/year)*	26.07.2001
Applicant's or agent's file reference 701.864	**IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION**

International application No.	International filing date *(day/month/year)*	Priority date *(day/month/year)*
PCT/EP00/03888	28/04/2000	05/05/1999

Applicant
GER ELETTRONICA S.R.L. et al.

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For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/	Authorized officer
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